

**STATE OF INDIANA**  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

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INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

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October 31, 2007

Mr. Kevin J. Martin, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> St. SW  
Rm. 8-B-201  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Martin:

I am writing in regard to an issue that is becoming a top priority for the citizens I represent in the Indiana House of Representatives: namely, the growing tendency for cable companies to ignore the stated wishes of the consumers they serve.

Their concerns have recently grown in magnitude in my legislative district as a result of at least three factors:

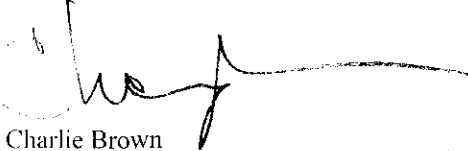
- 1) an increased interest in viewing the Super Bowl Champion Indianapolis Colts;
- 2) the refusal of cable companies to provide access to the NFL Network either on basic cable or without it being part of a package that includes access to cable channels very few consumers would ever seek out individually; and
- 3) drastically increasing subscription rates for cable television programming—as much as *41 percent* within the past few years, I am told.

In summary—and I am virtually certain you have heard this before—the refusal of cable companies to provide the programming demanded by consumers is a travesty. The marketplace for cable entertainment will benefit from competition and informed consumer decisions. Without action by the Federal Communications Commission, these goals cannot be met.

It has come to my attention that the FCC is in the process of opening a rulemaking proceeding (*MB Docket 07-42*) to consider changes that could address some of these concerns. I request that the FCC change its rules so that disputes such as those involving the NFL Network and other “independent and diverse” channels be sent to an arbitrator who will have the authority to institute immediate actions on behalf of the nation’s cable television consumers.

Regardless of the FCC’s final course of action in this matter, please accept my most sincere thanks for your timely consideration of my remarks concerning *MB Docket 07-42*.

Respectfully,



Charlie Brown  
State Representative  
Indiana House District 3

cc: Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein  
Commissioner Michael J. Copps  
Commissioner Robert M. McDowell  
Commissioner Deborah Taylor Tate

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